Reservation for women in the judiciary

542. SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to reserve one third of posts of judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts for women;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHI): (a) to (c) The appointments of judges of the Supreme Court and of the High Courts are made under articles 124 and 217 of the Constitution of India, respectively which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons.

The Government have, however, addressed letters to the Chief Ministers and the Chief Justices of the High Courts from time to time requesting them to locate persons from the Bar belonging to the Schedule Castes, Scheduled Tribes, other Backward Classes, minorities and women who are suitable for appointment as High Court Judges.

Financial aid to High Courts

†543. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Government have decided to provide financial aid to do away with the infrastructural lacunae in the High Courts during current finacial year;

(b) if so, the High Courts to which financial aid is proposed to be provided by the Government alongwith the lacunae which are to be done away with and to what extent funds are proposed to be allocated;

(c) whether Government propose to provide financial aid to the newly established High Courts of newly formed States like Chhattisgarh, Uttaranchal and Jharkhand to meet their basic requirements; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.